

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 /013 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:DHSWARTZ:RP

APPROVED BY EUR/RPE: DHSWARTZ

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R 061612Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO 2394

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 029448

FOL REPEAT COPENHAGEN 399 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS EC BRUSSELS BUCHAREST DUBLIN GENEVA THE HAGUE LONDON
LUXEMBOURG PARIS OECD PARIS ROME SOFIA
FEB 04

QTE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, COMECON, DA

SUBJ: COMECON APPROACH TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

REF: COPENHAGEN A-87, JULY 27, 1975

1. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL DANISH PRESS BUREAU RITZAU REPORTS
FROM BUCHAREST THAT AN APPROACH BY COMECON TOWARD THE EC
WAS THE CENTRAL ISSUE IN DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN'S
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY FEBRUARY 2.
ANDERSEN IS OFFICIALLY VISITING SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN
CAPITALS.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN ANDERSEN'S DELEGATION, THE
BUREAU REPORTS, AN INITIATIVE FROM COMECON MAY BE
EXPECTED SHORTLY TO PAVE THE ROAD FOR AN AGREEMENT
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BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. RUMANIAN LEADERS
CONFIRMED THE IMPRESSION WHICH ANDERSEN GOT LAST

WEEK IN SOFIA WHERE PRESIDENT TODOR ZHIVKOV REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT A COMECON INITIATIVE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

3. THE ACTUAL NATURE OF THE INITIATIVE HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY DISCLOSED. RITZAU, HOWEVER, QUOTES "INFORMED CIRCLES IN BUCHAREST" STATING THAT IT WILL BE A PROPOSAL FOR AN "UMBRELLA" AGREEMENT PERMITTING EACH COMECON COUNTRY TO ENTER SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL EC COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ANDERSEN'S VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS IS TO PROMOTE DANISH TRADE, THE RITZAU REPORT SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY SEE HIMSELF IN THE LARGER ROLE OF PROMOTING CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE EC. INASMUCH AS HE IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE EC APPROVAL FOR SUCH INITIATIVES, HE MAY RUN INTO CRITICISM FROM DENMARK'S EC PARTNERS. FOREIGN ECONOMIC MINISTER NORGAAARD WAS EARLIER INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR SITUATION REGARDING HIS CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (SEE REFAIR).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE PROMOTION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, TRADE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE029448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHSWARTZ:RP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-1009
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760273/aaaacmbr.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COPENHAGEN A-87
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMECON APPROACH TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
TAGS: EGEN, EEWT, DA, RO, XH, XT, EEC, COMECON, (ANDERSEN, KNUD BORGE)
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006